Pruitt’s Playbook
The Trump Administration’s Assault on the Environmental Protection Agency
Assault on EPA: The Strategy

Scott Pruitt’s strategy puts polluters first

Administrator Scott Pruitt’s policies are threatening our children by slashing the EPA’s budget, hiring polluters who will protect their industries, rolling back environmental safeguards, and putting politics over science. His schedule is filled with meetings with industry insiders that were followed by EPA decisions that will harm public health. Pruitt’s agenda threatens to move America’s environment backward to a dirtier and more dangerous era with higher cancer rates and more asthma attacks, heart disease and strokes.

Former administrators are deeply troubled at what they are seeing at EPA

- William Ruckelshaus (EPA Administrator under Presidents Nixon and Reagan) “It appears that what is happening now is taking a meat ax to the protections of public health and environment and then hiding it.”

- Christine Todd Whitman (EPA Administrator under President George W. Bush) “The agency created by a Republican president 47 years ago to protect the environment and public health may end up doing neither under Mr. Pruitt’s direction….But the evidence is abundant of the dangerous political turn of an agency that is supposed to be guided by science.”

- Lisa Jackson (EPA Administrator under President Obama) “The EPA has been run by Democrats, by Republicans, but has never, in its history that is 40-plus years old, been run by someone who seems to be determined to do the one thing that could destroy its credibility, which is not making it transparent.”

Americans want EPA to Protect their Environment

- 85% worry about polluted drinking water, lakes and rivers
- 85% call the environment a top or important priority
- 74% say the U.S. should do whatever it takes to protect the environment
- 67% want the EPA preserved or strengthened

Opinion Research: Gallup Poll Social Series, 3/1-5/17; Pew Research Center, 1/17; Pew Research Center, 3/16 Political Survey; Reuters/Ipsos 1/18/17
Assault on EPA: The Plays

Slashing the EPA’s budget

Pruitt and the Trump Administration are championing 30 percent cuts that would hollow out the EPA and cut its budget to its lowest level since the 1970s. If enacted, these cuts would reverse decades of progress cleaning up pollution, including toxic substances, that foul our drinking water, air and soil.

Hiring polluters who will protect their industries

Pruitt is bringing industry insiders and lobbyists into EPA leadership positions to oversee the polluting industries they came from. The EPA is increasingly dominated by people who have spent decades fighting to block environmental safeguards, undermining scientific findings on environmental threats, and organizing contributions to pressure lawmakers.

Rolling back environmental safeguards

Pruitt is seeking to roll back and delay environmental safeguards that protect our public health and air, water and soil. The result will be more hazardous waste like mercury, methane, arsenic, lead and feces in our water, air and soil — and more of the cancers, diseases and other illnesses that follow.

Putting politics over science

Under Pruitt, the EPA has been jettisoning and suppressing scientific and public health expertise. It has sought to create bogus debates over established climate science. It has even purged its website of scientific data and reports.
Assault on EPA: Slashing the Budget

Pruitt and the Trump Administration are championing 30 percent cuts that would hollow out the EPA and cut its budget to its lowest level since the 1970s. If enacted, these budget cuts would reverse decades of progress cleaning up pollution, including toxic substances, that foul our drinking water, air and soil.

The EPA would face the largest cut of any federal agency, including thousands of EPA scientists, engineers and other experts who help states prevent and clean up waste and pollution.

Cutting an agency budget already at historic lows. The EPA’s budget has been frequently dropping for 13 years, even as the U.S. population has increased, evolving industries have created new pollution challenges, and cancer rates are rising.

Cuts to programs that children and families depend on
- Cleanup runoff pollution that goes into drinking water
- Fixes to underground tanks that leak toxins into the soil and water
- Monitor pollution to prevent “Code Red” unsafe air days
- EPA legal and investigative staff to make sure that polluters pay for cleanups, not taxpayers
- EPA funding for Justice Department enforcement of Superfund hazardous waste violations

These cuts will be passed on to state and local agencies—and taxpayers.

Putting our health at risk
- More toxic runoff in our drinking water; more feces and bacteria at beaches, lakes and streams
- More asthma attacks, especially among children
- More heart attacks among seniors
- Fewer cleanups of toxic waste sites
- More exposure to lead and cancer-causing radon gas
## Assault on EPA: Pruitt’s targets

### Examples of Trump Administration budget cuts to EPA programs that affect clean air, water and land

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Program Description</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AIR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indoor Radon Grant Program</td>
<td>Eliminated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reduces radon in homes, schools and buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Air Pollution Grants</td>
<td>Cut 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reduces “Code Red” and “Code Orange” days</td>
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<td><strong>WATER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program</td>
<td>Eliminated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fights runoff pollution from roads, parking lots and</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>agricultural lands</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water Pollution Control Grants</td>
<td>Cut 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supports water quality improvement and clean up</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BEACH Act Grants for Great Lakes and ocean coastal</td>
<td>Eliminated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>communities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monitors fecal, algal and other beach pollution</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Public Water System Supervision</td>
<td>Cut 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helps ensure safe drinking water</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOIL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Superfund</td>
<td>Cut 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supports toxic and radioactive waste cleanup of most</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>polluted sites</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Superfund Enforcement</td>
<td>Cut 37%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tracks down polluters + makes them pay</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Superfund Emergency Response Funds</td>
<td>Cut 18%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Responds to urgent threats</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brownfield Grants</td>
<td>Cut 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supports cleanup and redevelopment of polluted sites</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaking Underground Storage Tanks grants</td>
<td>Cut 48%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Protects water and soil from tanks leaking chemicals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Trust Fund monies to address Backlog of Hazardous Tanks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lead Paint Professional Certification</td>
<td>Eliminated</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Helps with lead abatement, risk assessment and inspections</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data from:
United States Environmental Protection Agency

FISCAL YEAR 2018 Justification of Appropriation Estimates for the Committee on Appropriations


www.usaspending.gov
Assault on EPA: Pruitt’s targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key cuts to water program in many states, including Florida, Great Lakes States, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Bay Program – MD, PA, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lakes Restoration Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf of Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Champlain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Pontchartrain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Island Sound</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Estuary Program — FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>— Tampa Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Sarasota Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Charlotte Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Indian River Lagoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puget Sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Florida Geographic Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everglades — Keys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South New England Estuaries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Assault on EPA: Crippling Natural Disaster Efforts**

### Pruitt’s budget cuts would cripple EPA efforts to help with natural disasters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Trump’s Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assess Risks, Deal with Contamination &amp; Support Cleanups</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA Homeland Security Efforts</td>
<td>Assesses public health risks posed by major infrastructure and facilities — in coordination with Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and state authorities.</td>
<td><strong>Almost 40% Cut</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Facility Safety: State and Local Prevention and Preparedness</td>
<td>Helps prevent, prepare and respond to catastrophic accidental chemical releases at industrial facilities (including petroleum facilities).</td>
<td><strong>35% Cut</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Right-to-Know, Toxics Release Inventory</td>
<td>Provides information about pollutants and toxic substances being released into air, water and soil. Affects neighborhoods near approximately 20,000 industrial and federal facilities around the country.</td>
<td><strong>Nearly 40% Cut</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Emergency</td>
<td>EPA is lead responder for cleanup of inland zone spills (pipelines, trucks, railcars, and other transportation systems). EPA provides technical assistance/support to the U.S. Coast Guard for coastal and maritime oil spills.</td>
<td><strong>15% Cut</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Train & Support Local Emergency Responders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Trump’s Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; Technical Support</td>
<td>EPA trains and provides technical assistance to respond to chemical and oil incidents for emergency responders.</td>
<td>Scaled back significantly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Protect Low-Income Communities from Environmental Hazards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Trump’s Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice</td>
<td>Ensures low income communities have equal protection from environmental and health hazards.</td>
<td><strong>Eliminated</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assault on EPA: Horse-trading the Budget

The Washington Backroom

EPA’s budget will be negotiated in a backroom by a President and EPA Administrator who have laid out a roadmap to cripple the EPA, along with many Congressional leaders who have shown little interest in protecting environmental safeguards. The EPA’s budget could be bargained away in the blink of an eye.

May
Trump and Pruitt submit an official budget — proposing historic cuts of 30 percent to the EPA’s FY2018 budget — the largest of any agency. The budget represents a polluter-friendly hollowing out of the EPA.

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September
The House of Representatives votes to cut the EPA’s FY18 budget. While not as steep as the Trump cuts, the House version would cut the EPA’s budget to 1970s levels when adjusted for inflation.

October
Fiscal Year 2018 begins on October 1. The Senate is expected to begin debating its version of an FY18 EPA budget in the middle of the month.

November
By December 8, Congress and the Trump Administration must agree on a budget for the federal government, including EPA.

December
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Assault on EPA: Hiring polluters who will protect their industries

Pruitt is bringing industry insiders and lobbyists into EPA leadership positions to oversee the polluting industries they came from. The EPA is increasingly dominated by people who have spent decades fighting to block environmental safeguards, undermining scientific findings on environmental threats, and organizing contributions to pressure lawmakers.

Nancy Beck
Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety
- Currently the top political appointee in EPA office overseeing chemical and pesticide safety.
- Came to EPA from a job as a top official for a chemical lobbying group working for chemical companies on issues now under her purview at EPA.
- Before that, stymied EPA chemical safety evaluations as a George W. Bush OMB employee. A House Science and Technology Committee report called her input, “very disturbing... the whole point of the exercise was to delay.”

Erik Baptist
Senior Deputy General Counsel
- Key to Pruitt’s efforts to roll back environmental protections in court.
- Longtime attorney for the American Petroleum Institute.

Cathy Stepp
Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 7
- Helps oversee EPA operations in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.
- As Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources chief, changed agency from environmental regulator into a rubber stamp for polluting businesses.
  - Slashed pollution fines to 30-year low while dissolving science bureau and firing staff.
  - Discounted scientific evidence.
  - Nonpartisan auditors concluded that Stepp’s department failed to follow its own enforcement policies against water polluters more than 94 percent of the time between 2005 and 2015.
  - Prevented officials from testifying before the state legislature on bills that would affect business.
Assault on EPA: Hiring polluters who will protect their industries

Troy Lyons

Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

- EPA’s liaison to Congress, state and local governments.
- Lobbyist against EPA rules for oil companies including Hess and BP.

Trey Glenn

Region 4 Administrator

- Oversees EPA operations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.
- Reassigned as director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management amid ethics investigation over pay-for-play politics; became industry lobbyist.
- The Alabama Ethics Commissions unanimously found that Glenn violated ethics laws by accepting flights to Disney World and Hilton Head from a PR firm representing a contractor doing work for the Department.
- As Alabama Office of Water Resources director, oversaw dramatic cuts to pollution enforcement.

John Konkus

Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs

- Although his job is to be an EPA spokesman, Konkus previews EPA scientific grants and awards for political correctness.
- Trump campaign aide and Republican political operative with no environmental policy experience.
- Calls climate change “the double C-word” and vetoes grants accordingly. He has canceled more than $2 million in grants.
Assault on EPA: Rolling Back Environmental Safeguards

Since Pruitt became EPA Administrator he has been seeking to roll back and delay environmental safeguards that protect Americans’ health and environment from dangerous pollutions and other health hazards in water, air and soil. The Administrator has looked to his own team of industry insiders and polluter lobbyists to try to enact these rollbacks, including the following:

**Clean Cars Standards**
Reduce climate pollution and save consumers money
March 15, 2017: Plan to repeal standards announced

**Methane Reporting Requirement**
Track industrial methane emissions
March 2, 2017: Withdrawn by EPA

**Chemical Disaster Rule**
Improve risk management planning at facilities that use dangerous chemicals
March 16, 2017: Rule suspended

**Chemical Safety Board**
Investigates industrial chemical accidents
March 16, 2017: Trump/Pruitt budget proposed eliminating Board

**Mercury and Air Toxics Standards**
Limit mercury and other toxic emissions from power plants
April 18, 2017: EPA delayed court defense as it reconsiders rule

**Smog Standard**
Reduces amount of smog allowed in air.
October 1, 2017: EPA did not meet deadline to announce regions required to clean up smog

**Clean Power Plan**
Addresses carbon pollution from power plants; would avoid up to 3,600 premature deaths per year
October 9, 2017: Rollback proposed
Assault on EPA: Putting Politics Over Science

Under Scott Pruitt, the EPA has been jettisoning and suppressing scientific and public health expertise. It has sought to create bogus debates over established climate science. It has even purged its website of scientific data and language.

Censoring climate change: Under Pruitt, the EPA has been deleting references to climate change across its website, and even took down a two-decade-old section featuring scientific explanations of climate change. Pruitt deleted all references to climate change in the EPA’s new strategic plan. The agency may even remove climate change-related exhibits from its museum.

Science optional: Pruitt dismissed numerous scientists from EPA’s Board of Scientific Counselors. A Trump campaign political operative with little environmental policy experience who has been installed in the EPA Public Affairs office vets grant applications and eliminates references to climate (what he calls “the double C-word”) from solicitations.

Cooking the books: Pruitt’s EPA has used discredited methods to hide the health benefits of reducing dangerous power plant pollutants particulate matter — or soot. Its political appointees ordered career scientists to erase the economic benefits to wetlands of a regulation protecting waterways. Pruitt has even raised the idea of convening a team of researchers to challenge the well-established scientific consensus that CO₂ and other fossil fuel emissions are the primary drivers of climate change.

Nothing to hide? EPA employees have to be escorted onto the floor where Pruitt’s office is located. They are sometimes told not to take notes when they meet with him. Pruitt kept a secret calendar until it was disclosed under outside pressure — revealing how his schedule is tilted towards industry insiders whose requests frequently have been granted.
The Pruitt playbook can be hazardous to our health

EPA’s budget and policies affect how exposed our bodies are to pollution and hazardous waste. And Pruitt’s efforts to roll back environmental safeguards could worsen threats that are very real: For example, coal ash from power plant waste pits contains arsenic, lead, mercury, selenium and other cancer-causing agents. Toxic discharge from power plants forms toxic heavy metals in waterways like arsenic and mercury.

- **Brain**: Brain damage, lower IQ, learning skills and neurological disorders
  *Can result from:*
  - lead in drinking water
  - certain pesticides
  - water and ground contamination caused by toxic discharges from power plants, including mercury, arsenic and lead
  - Coal ash dumped into power plant waste pits close to waterways

- **Bones**: Leukemia can be induced by benzene from factory emissions

- **Lungs**:
  - Asthma attacks and respiratory illness as a result of exposure to air pollution
  - Lung cancer caused by indoor radon
  - Fetal heart defects from the degreaser TCE

- **Heart**: Heart disease and heart attacks triggered by air pollution

- **Pancreas**: Type 2 diabetes can be triggered by air pollution

- **Bladder**: Bladder cancer risks are increased by air pollution

- **Fetal Development**: Development of fetal brain and nervous system can be affected by certain pesticides, coal ash, mercury and air pollution